

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 ( ISO ) W

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R 200901Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6990

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2351

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, XC, MY, UK

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN COMMENT ON VISIT OF UK MIN STATE FOR DEFENCE

RODGERS

REF: KL 1696 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UK MIN STATE FOR DEFENCE MADE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR  
VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR MAY 16 FOR TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER  
AND DEFENSE MINISTER ON CURRENT UK DEFENSE REVIEW. IN  
COMMENTING ON VISIT, HIGH-RANKING MALAYSIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MINISTRY (MFA) OFFICIAL STATED GOM FEELS CONTINUED PRESENCE  
AND VIABILITY OF FPDA VITAL UNTIL ASEAN NEUTRALIZATION SCHEME  
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IMPLEMENTED, UK ALWAYS HAS LOOKED TO FPDA FIRST WHEN MAKING

CUTS IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, THEREFORE MALAYSIANS TOLD RODGERS THEY WISHED NO CHANGES IN UK FPDA COMMITMENT AND WOULD NOT OFFER OR CONCUR IN ANY HYPOTHETICAL REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH MIN OF STATE FOR DEFENCE WILLIAM RODGERS TOLD KL PRESS MAY 16 THAT HIS 24-HOUR VISIT TO MALAYSIA AND HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIME MIN RAZAK AND DEF MIN HAMZAH ABU SAMAH WAS TO OBTAIN MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS (FPDA) BEFORE UKG DECIDES ON FUTURE OF ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENTS. RODGERS REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT NO CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN REACHED YET IN UKG REVIEW, VIEWS EXPRESSED BY FPDA PARTNERS WOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT, HE WAS IN MALAYSIA TO LISTEN NOT TO NEGOTIATE, AND GOM FULLY UNDERSTANDS CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE REVIEW NECESSARY. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO BRITAIN'S FPDA PARTNERS TO INFORM BRITAIN OF THEIR MILITARY NEEDS WHICH QUOTE CAN BEST BE JUDGED BY THEMSELVES UNQUOTE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 17 UNDER SECRETARY ALBERT TALALLA, MFA'S PRINCIPAL ADVOCATE OF ASEAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, SAID THAT GOM BELIEVES CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF FPDA IS VITAL TO MALAYSIAN SECURITY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS (A) NEUTRALITY SCHEME CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AND (B) GOM AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE OWN MILITARY CAPABILITIES. FURTHERMORE, TALALLA SAID, BRITISH TRADITIONALLY LOOKED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA FIRST WHEN MAKING DEFENSE CUTS, FPDA CONTRIBUTION NOW IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF ONE PERCENT OF UK DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, AND GOM FEELS IT IS TIME THEY BEGAN LOOKING ELSEWHERE. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO TALALLA, WHEN RODGERS SOUGHT GOM'S VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS HE WAS TOLD FPDA WAS CONSIDERED AN ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE ZONE AND, UNTIL THAT REALIZED, MALAYSIANS DESIRE NO CHANGES. GOM REFUSED TO REPLY TO RODGER'S SUGGESTION THAT GOM IDENTIFY ITS PRIORITIES SO THAT HMG COULD TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT WHEN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS.

4. COMMENT: TALALLA'S ACCOUNT OF EXCHANGE WITH RODGERS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY RELIABLE UK SOURCE. EMBASSY FINDS TALALLA'S COMMENTS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THEY ARE THE CLOSEST HE HAS COME TO ADMITTING GOM, DESPITE ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH NON-ALIGNED IMAGE AND ADVOCACY OF PEACE ZONES, CONTINUES FEEL FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT PLAYS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN NATIONAL SECURITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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